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volume of Baird, and the more thorough memoirs of Lilljeborg, Fischer, Zenker, Claus, Sars, and others. The classification is that proposed by G. O. Sars, son of the distinguished Norwegian zoologist, Prof. Michael Sars, in his "Oversigt af Norges marine Ostracoder" published in 1865. The Ostracoda are represented by the little two shelled water fleas, about half a line or less in length, which swim over the bottom or creep over submerged plants. As remarked by the author, "the geographical and bathymetrical distribution of the Ostracoda is a matter of the greatest interest as illustrating the probable condition under which the various fossiliferous strata have been deposited." We might also add that the Ostracoda are found in the lowest fossiliferous strata, in company with the Trilobites and Nebaliads. So that a profound knowledge of the living species is absolutely necessary for the correct appreciation of some of the earliest traces of life on our globe.

THE AMERICAN ENTOMOLOGIST.—I regret to state contrary to announcement a year ago, that this magazine will not be continued during the coming year. The cost of publishing a paper so profusely illustrated with original figures is great, and the publishers, Messrs. R. P. Studley and Co., have lately concluded to discontinue it, as they have not met with sufficient financial encouragement. I have, however, since they so decided, purchased from them all the illustrations, and all interest in the magazine, and hope at no very distant day to recommence its publication myself. Meanwhile I take this means of thanking the many subscribers who, during the year, have sent in expressions of encouragement and appreciation, or who have signified their intention of renewing subscription. I shall ever be glad to hear from them on entomological subjects, and to render them what little service lies in my power.—C. V. RILEY, *St. Louis, Mo., December 10, 1871.*

BOTANY.

DISMISSAL OF THE LATE BOTANIST OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.—*Editors American Naturalist.* DEAR SIR:—I have to request that you will place before the readers of the AMERICAN NATURALIST the correspondence herein enclosed.

Dr. Parry was thought to have performed the duties of Botanist to the Department of Agriculture to the entire satisfaction

of the previous Commissioner. His extraordinarily abrupt dismissal upon the incoming of the present Commissioner, following a course of vexatious treatment to which, he states, he was subjected by his Chief Clerk, does not seem calculated to win the confidence of scientific men in the present administration of a department in which they naturally feel much interest.

Very respectfully yours,

ASA GRAY.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, }
Washington, D. C., September 27, 1871. }

Hon. F. WATTS, *Commissioner of Agriculture.*

SIR:—In order to enable me to comply strictly with the regulations of this Department in regard to ordinary correspondence in connexion with my official duties as botanist, I respectfully ask to be furnished with written instructions on the following points. 1st. Should letters addressed to me personally, as botanist of the department, imparting or requesting information on botanical subjects, be answered and signed by me personally as botanist, or in the name of the Commissioner? 2d. In sending botanical specimens to be named, or in returning such as have been sent to me to name, should the accompanying letter be signed by myself as botanist or by the Commissioner?

Having heretofore exercised my own discretion in this matter, with due regard to the scientific interests of the department and to facilitate the business of my division, I desire to avoid any future misunderstanding by receiving definite written instructions on these points for my guidance.

Respectfully yours,

C. C. PARRY, *Botanist Agr. Dpt.*

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, }
Washington, D. C., September 27, 1871. }

C. C. PARRY, *Esq., Washington, D. C.*

SIR:—Your services as botanist of this Department will not be required after this date.

I am respectfully,

FREDERICK WATTS, *Commissioner.*

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, }
Washington, D. C., September 27, 1871. }

Hon. FREDERICK WATTS, *Commissioner of Agriculture.*

SIR:—I have the honor to acknowledge your letter of this date informing me that my "services as botanist of this Department will not be required after this date," for which I sincerely thank you.

I respectfully request that you will designate some person from the de-

partment to-morrow to be with me in selecting my private property, books, etc., from that belonging to the Department.

Respectfully yours,

C. C. PARRY, *Botanist Agr. Dept.*

To the Honorable JUDGE WATTS,

U. S. Commissioner of Agriculture, Washington.

The undersigned, botanists, well acquainted with Dr. C. C. Parry, and having a high opinion of his ability, industry, entire probity and honorable character, as well as of his peculiar qualifications for the position, acting upon their view of the best interests of the science they represent, and sincerely believing that his dismissal must have taken place under some misapprehension, hereby respectfully solicit that the Commissioner would take into consideration the propriety of re-appointing Dr. Parry to the position of Botanist in the Department of Agriculture.

JOHN TORREY,

ASA GRAY,

WM. H. BREWER, *Prof. Agriculture in Yale College.*

DANIEL C. EATON, *Prof. Botany in Yale College.*

Harvard University Herbarium, November 22, 1871.

P. S.—A copy is forwarded to Messrs. Watson, Engelmann, and Canby, for their signatures.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, }
Washington, D. C., November 27, 1871. }

To Prof. ASA GRAY.

DEAR SIR:—Prof. Henry this morning placed in my hands the note of Profs. Torrey, Brewer, Eaton and yourself, asking me “to consider the propriety of reappointing Dr. Parry to the position of Botanist in the Department of Agriculture.” The respect which I must necessarily have for a suggestion coming from such a source induces me carefully to review my action in the matter of Dr. Parry’s removal; and my conclusion is, that my own self respect and especially the interests of this Department, forbid that I should reverse that which I did with care and reflection. I did not, to Dr. Parry himself, assign any reason for his removal, simply because he did not afford me any opportunity to do so. I did not see him afterwards, but I should add that it was quite acceptable to me that I was not called upon to assign reasons which it would have been as disagreeable to me to utter as for him to hear. Nor do I now desire to say any thing about Dr. Parry that might disparage him in the estimation of his friends.

I am, most respectfully, your ob’t. servant,

FREDERICK WATTS.

Cambridge, Mass., November 30th, 1871.

To the Hon. FREDERICK WATTS, U. S. Commissioner of Agriculture.

SIR:—I have to acknowledge your favor of the 27 inst. in reply to the

memorial addressed to you by Professors Torrey, Brewer, Eaton, and myself. It still appears to me that the friends of Dr. Parry are entitled to know the reason of his summary dismissal by you,—all the more so that your letter intimates, without directly asserting, some moral delinquency on his part. I am still so confident that you must have been misled, that I respectfully ask leave to print your letter to me along with the memorial to which it is a reply; in case you still decline to furnish the charges upon which Dr. Parry's dismissal was grounded.

I am, sir, respectfully, your obedient servant,

ASA GRAY.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, }
Washington, D. C., Nov. 8, 1871. }

To Professor ASA GRAY.

DEAR SIR:—Yours of the 30th of November was handed to me yesterday by Professor Henry. If it were not that you say that my former letter to you “intimates without directly asserting some moral delinquency” on Dr. Parry's part, I would content myself by saying that my judgment dictated to me the propriety of Dr. Parry's removal. But I have concluded to put you in possession of the whole subject.

When I took charge of this Department, my first duty was to look into and to understand the divisions of subjects which make up its whole, the work that had been done, and the character and competency of each individual who had charge of that work. Among the divisions was that of the Botanist, with Dr. Parry in charge of it. My attention was called to the inquiry, how and to what extent the work of this division conduced to the practical operations of the Department. I found that nothing at all had been done by Dr. Parry beyond his attention to the preservation of the herbarium. This Department is designed to render the developments and deductions of science directly available to practice, that farmers and horticulturists may be benefited by them. The principles of vegetable physiology, their relations to climate, soils, and the food of plants, and the diseases of plants, which are principally of fungoid origin, it is clearly the duty of a botanist to investigate. If possible, he should throw some light upon the origin and condition of growth of the lower orders of cryptogamic botany. This is a domain into which I could not discover that Dr. Parry had ever entered, so far as his practical work here gave any indication. The routine operations of a mere herbarium botanist are practically unimportant.

In the course of my investigation, my attention was also drawn to letters written by Dr. Parry, which I deemed objectionable because of his mode of expression, wanting in perspicuity and not creditable to the Department. These things, and what I also learned that my predecessor had signified to Dr. Parry, to the effect that his letters should be submitted to him and for his signature before they were sent away, induced me to direct my chief clerk to have a conversation with Dr. Parry, and to say to him that, as the head of the Department, I was responsible for

whatever emanated from it, and that all letters on official business must be sent open to me, for my signature and frank. I returned with this message a sealed package for which my frank was asked. At another time I returned to Dr. Parry by my chief clerk, a letter which he had written and which I did not think proper should be sent, and which the Doctor passionately tore up and threw into the waste basket. This he subsequently apologized for to the gentleman he had thus insulted. On the 25th of September, after these various conversations between my chief clerk and Dr. Parry, he wrote another letter addressed to "My Dear Doctor." It had no other designation. For whom it was intended, I did not learn, or if I did I have forgotten. It concluded, "yours, 'officially,' C. C. Parry." I wrote on this letter, "This is not very intelligible in its last sentence; besides, the Botanist can sign no official letters. What his 'official' means I do not understand, but under the circumstances, I think it is intended for impertinence." It then occurred to me that I would dismiss Dr. Parry, but held the matter under advisement for two days, until the 27th of September, when I received a note from him, in which he requested me to furnish him with *written* instructions (underscoring the word), and which contained two queries respecting letters from the Department. I did not think that he was in want of the information he asked for, and my answer to his note was that the Department did not longer require his services. My conviction was then, and is now, that whatever may be the qualifications of Dr. Parry as a botanist, he was not competent creditably to discharge the duties which should devolve upon him in connection with this Department, and therefore, without passion or prejudice, I determined to dismiss him.

A word in reply to your suggestion about printing my letter and your memorial. I decline to be a party myself to any such proceedings. But if you will take the whole responsibility of it, I shall never complain that you have violated a confidence which I never intended to impose.

I am, very respectfully,

FREDERICK WATTS, *Commissioner of Agriculture.*

BOTANIC GARDEN,
Cambridge, Mass., December 11th, 1871. }

To the Hon. FREDERICK WATTS, U. S. Commissioner of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

MY DEAR SIR,—I have to thank you for your letter "Nov" [Dec.] 8th, in response to mine of Nov. 30.

You will permit me to remark, that the dismissal, without an hour's notice, of Dr. Parry from a position the duties of which he was thought to have performed acceptably to your predecessor, must of itself, if unexplained, cast an injurious reflection upon his character or conduct. Then your letter in reply to the memorial which solicited his recall, stating that the reasons for such dismissal were of a nature which it would have been as disagreeable for you to utter as for him to hear, and that you "do not now desire to say anything about Dr. Parry which might dis-

parage him in the estimation of his friends,"—all this certainly conveyed to my mind the conviction that some serious delinquency had been charged. It is with satisfaction, therefore, that I have read your letter now before me, obligingly written "to put [me] in possession of the whole subject." I learn from it that the reasons for Dr. Parry's summary and ignominious dismissal relate to some details of form in the mode of conducting official botanical correspondence,—to a momentary loss of temper in the presence of one of your subordinates (evinced by the mode in which he destroyed a letter of his which had been returned to him to be cancelled), and for which he duly apologized,—to the subscribing of a letter addressed familiarly "My Dear Doctor" [evidently some botanical correspondent] by the phrase "yours officially,"—that in some letters you found "his mode of expression wanting in perspicuity" (a fault into which more practised writers may sometimes fall),—and finally, that you did not discover in Dr. Parry the kind or degree of botanical qualifications for the post which you were entitled to expect, and deemed the services of "an herbarium botanist" practically unimportant.

As your letter has relieved my own mind from a painful anxiety upon this subject, it may have the same effect upon others, upon whose minds also your action had left the alternative of supposing, either bad conduct on the part of one hitherto highly esteemed, or of very hard usage towards him (it was thought through some misrepresentation of him or some misapprehension of yours). I think it proper and just, therefore, to make use of the permission you grant, and to take the responsibility of making public, in scientific circles, first, the correspondence between Dr. Parry and yourself, and second, that between ourselves.

I am, very respectfully yours,

ASA GRAY

EXTRACTS FROM REPORTS OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE of Pennsylvania, made by the HON. FREDERICK WATTS, 1865, 1868:—examples of "perspicuity," etc.

"If science and learning be useful at all, where can it tell with so potent an influence, as where it deals with the operations of a farm, which embrace a great number of mechanical and chemical forces, and involve the necessity for searching after philosophical truth?"

"The individual members of the Board of Trustees, have labored assiduously for several years to establish a school, where an education may be obtained which will qualify farmers' sons intelligently to pursue their fathers' business. They have been influenced by the belief that this object cannot be attained at any of the literary colleges of our State; that the knowledge and habits which they impart disqualify youth for such pursuits, and thereby defeat the object of the parent, and add nothing to the interests of agriculture."

"Our experience teaches us, that a farmer's son, graduated in such an institution, finds no place, ever after, in the domestic circle of his family:

he is actually driven, by his education, into the necessity of resorting to some neighboring town, in pursuit of a learned profession, where he soon forms habits of idleness and intemperance; and the result is, that the father not only loses the expenses of his education, but the son himself."

"These farms will all differ essentially in the character of soil and situation; and will be conducted under the eye of a skilful Professor of Agriculture for the purpose of testing and developing the thousand mysteries which now cloud the knowledge of the farmer. These experiments carried on under the direction of a scientific observer, who will constantly keep note of the weather, *the signs of the Zodiac*, the application of manures, and all the various actual and supposed influences which affect the growth of plants; and this, too, at three different points of the State, and upon different soils, cannot fail to produce an amount of information exceedingly valuable, and which could never be collected by individual exertion. Until now our Institution has never had the power of prosecuting these inquiries; but we now start upon a new career girded about with the strength of sufficient means, and we hope with great certainty to soon make it tell upon the Agricultural interests of the State."

POTATOES GROWING ABOVE GROUND. — I send you herewith, what appears to me to be a rather uncommon freak of nature. I remember an old ballad which ran something like this —

"They plant potatoes in the fall
Over there, over there,
And they dig them tops and all
Over there, over there,"

but I never knew of any authority for the potatoes growing on the stalk above ground until I saw it in the specimen I send. There were found in our potato field yesterday several stalks of potatoes having from six to twelve or more little potatoes on them, from the eyes of which are shooting the regular leaves. They seem in these specimens to grow from the axils, but in some other specimens they seem to be enlargements of the leaf-stem itself. — B. D. EASTMAN, M.D.

HELENIUM TENNIFOLIUM. — Specimens of this plant were presented by Dr. Foreman, having been found by him growing about three miles northwest of Baltimore, in the neighborhood of some cotton mills. As it is a native of the extreme southwestern States of Arkansas, Louisiana and Texas, it is believed that its seeds have been introduced in cotton bales from a southern port. The plants observed were few in number, as if recently established, but were in vigorous growth and have made abundance of seeds. — *Proceedings Maryland Academy of Sciences, Nov. 6, 1871.*